Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00934 241441Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----075604 241444Z /43

R 241420Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9122

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL JERUSALEM 934

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS, LE

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. UN SOURCE WHO HAS VISITED SOUTHERN LEBANON DURING PAST SEVERAL DAYS TELLS US JUNE 24 THAT SITUATION HAS HEATED UP A BIT DURING PAST WEEK WITH EXCHANGES BETWEEN MOSLEMS/LEFTISTS AND CHRISTIANS IN BINT JBAIL AND MARJAYOUN AREAS RESPECTIVELY INCLUDING ARTILLERY, TANK AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. NO REPORTS OF IDF CROSS-BORDER FIRING DURING PAST WEEK. HOWEVER UN OBSERVERS SAW IDF NIGHT EXERCISE (PROBABLY BATTALION-SIZED) EARLIER THIS WEEK WHICH TOOK PLACE CLOSE TO BORDER ON ISRAELI SIDE INVOLVING HELICOPTERS AND AIR ASSAULT.

2. SOURCE NOTES THAT UN HAS NOT LOST ANY VEHICLES TO LEFTIST FORCES SINCE JUNE 5 AND ATTRIBUTES THIS TO TALKS IN BEIRUT WITH PLO OFFICIALS IN LATE MAY ON WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES INVOLVING CONFIDENTIAL.

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LEFTIST INTERFERENCE WITH UN PEACEKEEPING
OPERATIONS. AT MEETING, PLO AGREED TO DESIST
FROM FURTHER FORCIBLE COMMANDEERING OF VECHICLES AND
PLEDGED EFFORTS TO RETURN THOSE PREVIOUSLY
TAKEN. CURRENTLY UN STILL LISTS 40 VEHICLES
WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN RETURNED. ALTHOUGH THIS ISSUDE
OF MOSLEM/LEFTIST INTERFERENCE WITH UN WORK IN

SOUTHERN LEBANON HAS NOT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, BEEN NOTED IN PRESS, IT HAS BEEN OF INCREASING CONCERN TO UNTSO BOTH FROM STANDPOINT OF MORALE OF UNMO PERSONNEL AND PERFORMING UN OBSERVATION FUNCTION. SOURCE TELLS US THAT UNTSO HAS PROVIDED WORDING ON THIS SUBJECT FOR NEW YORK TO BE INCLUDED IN NEXT MONTHLY UN REPORT IN PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED **Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS**

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JERUSA00934
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770226-0922 Format: TEL

From: JERUSALEM **Handling Restrictions:**

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770623/aaaaatph.tel

Line Count: 71 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 0c834977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION SS

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2047156 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS, LE

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0c834977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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